We claim:

1.     A method for enabling a user to send a customized gift package to a recipient, comprising:

offering a plurality of customized gift package options to a user;

receiving a selected gift package option from a user;

5          offering a plurality of gift options to a user;

receiving a selected gift option from a user; and

transmitting information corresponding to the selected gift package option and the selected gift option to at least one point of distribution for assembly and shipping of a customized gift package comprising the selected gift package option and the

10        selected gift option;

wherein offering the plurality of customized gift package options includes offering a plurality of art options and further wherein the plurality of art options includes offering to receive a graphic file from a user.

2.     The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of art options can be customized with a recipient's name, a user's name, a logo, or any combination thereof.

3.     The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a shipping destination from a user;

determining shipping methods based on the shipping destination and the selected gift option;

5          offering the determined shipping methods to a user;

receiving a selected shipping option from a user; and

transmitting information corresponding to the selected shipping option to the point of distribution.

4.   The method of claim 3, wherein determining shipping methods further

5   comprises:

accessing a weather forecasting database;

retrieving forecasted high temperature data corresponding to the shipping destination for a predetermined number of days;

comparing the retrieved forecasted high temperature data with a plurality of

10   shipping methods, wherein each shipping method comprises a recommended maximum temperature for the selected gift option;

offering to the user a list of shipping methods in which the recommended maximum temperature is greater than or equal to the forecasted high temperature data; and

15   receiving a selected shipping option from the user.

5.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

assembling the customized gift package; and

shipping the customized gift package to the shipping destination.

6.   The method of claim 5, further comprising:

requesting a personalized gift message from a user;

receiving the personalized gift message from the user;

transmitting information corresponding to the received personalized gift

5   message to the point of distribution; and

generating a message card; wherein the message card comprises the received personalized gift message, and

including the message card with the customized gift package prior to shipping.

7.      The method of claim 1, wherein offering a plurality of customized gift package options further comprises:

offering a plurality of container color combinations to a user; and

receiving a selected container color combination from a user.

8.      The method of claim 1, further comprising:

requesting a personalized gift message from a user;

receiving the personalized gift message from the user; and

transmitting information corresponding to the received personalized gift message to the point of distribution.

9.      The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of art options further include one or more graphical designs which can be selected by the user to be included on the customized gift package.

10.     The method of claim 9, wherein the graphical design can be customized with a photo or logo sent from a user.

11.     The method of claim 1, further comprising:

offering a list of occasion options to a user; and

receiving a selected occasion option from a user;

wherein the plurality of customized gift package options offered to the user

correspond to the selected occasion option.

12.    A method for enabling a user to send a customized gift package to a recipient,

receiving a selected shipping option comprising:

offering a plurality of customized gift package options to a user;

receiving a selected gift package option from a user;

5            offering a plurality of gift options to a user;

receiving a shipping destination from a user;

receiving a recipient's location from a user;

determining one or more shipping methods based the shipping destination and

the selected gift option;

10            offering the determined shipping methods to a user;

receiving a selected shipping option from a user; and

transmitting information corresponding to the selected gift package option, the

selected gift option, and the selected shipping option to at least one point of

distribution for assembly and shipping of a customized gift package comprising the

15            selected gift package option and the selected gift option;

wherein determining one or more shipping methods based on the shipping

destination and the selected gift option comprises comparing a forecasted high

temperature for the shipping destination with a plurality of shipping methods, wherein

each shipping method comprises a recommended maximum temperature for shipping

20            the selected gift option; and

and offering to the user a list of shipping methods in which the recommended

maximum temperature is greater than or equal to the forecasted high temperature.

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13.    The method of claim 12, wherein determining one or more shipping methods comprises retrieving from a weather service current forecasted high temperature data corresponding to the shipping destination for a predetermined number of days.

14.    A network-based method for providing a customized gift package to a recipient, comprising:

    providing a web site having a user interface;

    displaying through the user interface a plurality of customized gift package

5    options;

    receiving at the user interface a selected gift package option from a user;

    displaying through the user interface a plurality of gift options;

    receiving at the user interface a selected gift option from a user;

    transmitting information corresponding to the selected gift package option and

10    the selected gift option to at least one point of distribution for assembly and shipping of a customized gift package comprising the selected gift package option and the selected gift option;

    wherein offering the plurality of customized gift package options includes offering a plurality of art options and further wherein the plurality of art options

15    includes offering to receive a graphic file from a user.

15.    A network-based method for providing a customized gift package to a recipient, comprising:

    providing a web site having a user interface;

displaying through the user interface a plurality of customized gift package

5    options;

receiving at the user interface a selected gift package option from a user;

displaying through the user interface a plurality of gift options;

receiving at the user interface a selected gift option from a user;

receiving at the user interface a shipping destination;

10   determining one or more shipping methods based on the shipping destination

and the selected gift option;

displaying through the user interface one or more shipping methods;

receiving at the user interface a selected shipping option from a user; and

transmitting information corresponding to the selected gift package option, the

15   selected gift option, and the selected shipping option to at least one point of

distribution for assembly and shipping of a customized gift package comprising the

selected gift package option and the selected gift option;

wherein determining one or more shipping methods based on the shipping

destination and the selected gift option comprises comparing a forecasted high

20   temperature for the shipping destination, a plurality of shipping methods, wherein

each shipping method comprises a recommended maximum temperature for shipping

the selected gift option and offering to the user a list of shipping methods in which the

recommended maximum temperature is greater than or equal to the forecasted high

temperature.

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16.    A computer-readable storage medium comprising executable code for

instructing a computer to perform the method of claim 1.

17.    A computer-readable storage medium comprising executable code for

instructing a computer to perform the method of claim 12.

18.    A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave and representing

sequences of instructions which, when executed by a processor, provide a customized

gift package to a recipient, by performing the following:

   offering a plurality of customized gift package options to a user;

5    receiving a selected gift package option from a user;

   offering a plurality of gift options to a user;

   receiving a selected gift option from a user; and

   transmitting information corresponding to the selected gift package option and

the selected gift option to at least one point of distribution for assembly and shipping

10    of a customized gift package comprising the selected gift package option and the

selected gift option;

   wherein offering the plurality of customized gift package options includes

offering a plurality of art options and further wherein the plurality of art options

includes offering to receive a graphic file from a user.

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19.    A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave and representing

sequences of instructions which, when executed by a processor, provide a customized

gift package to a recipient, by performing the following:

   offering a plurality of customized gift package options to a user;

5    receiving a selected gift package option from a user;

   offering a plurality of gift options to a user;

   receiving a selected gift option from a user;

receiving a shipping destination;

determining one or more shipping methods based on the shipping destination

10 and the selected gift option;

offering the determined shipping methods to a user;

receiving a selected shipping option from a user; and

transmitting information corresponding to the selected gift package option, the

selected gift option, and the selected shipping option to at least one point of

15 distribution for assembly and distribution of a customized gift package comprising the

selected gift package option and the selected gift option;

wherein determining one or more shipping methods based on the shipping

destination and the selected gift option comprises comparing a forecasted high

temperature for the shipping destination with a plurality of shipping methods wherein

20 each shipping method comprises a recommended maximum temperature and offering

to the user a list of shipping methods in which the recommended maximum

temperature is greater than or equal to the forecasted high temperature.

20. A system for enabling a user to send a customized gift package to a recipient,

25 comprising:

a user interface;

an interaction module in communication with a processor and the user interface,

wherein the interaction module comprises executable instructions for a processor to interact

with a user through the user interface by:

30 offering a plurality of customized gift package options to a user, wherein the

plurality of gift package options includes offering a plurality of art options, and further

wherein the plurality of art options includes offering to receive a graphic file from a user;

receiving a selected gift package option from a user;

offering a plurality of gift options to a user; and

35        receiving a selected gift option from a user; and

a distribution module in communication with the processor and the interaction

module, wherein the interaction module transmits information corresponding to the selected

gift package option and selected gift option to the distribution module, and wherein the

distribution module comprises executable instructions for assembly and shipping of a

40    customized gift package.


21.    A method for enabling a user to create a customized gift package for a

recipient, comprising:

offering a plurality of customized gift package options to a user;

receiving a selected gift package option from a user;

5        offering a plurality of gift options to a user;

receiving a selected gift option from a user; and

transmitting information corresponding to the selected gift package option and

the selected gift option to at least one point of distribution for assembly and

distribution of a customized gift package comprising the selected gift package option

10        and the selected gift option, wherein after the customized gift package is assembled

the customized gift package is presented to the user for later delivery to a recipient;

wherein offering the plurality of customized gift package options includes offering a

plurality of art options and further wherein the plurality of art options includes offering to

receive a graphic file from a user.